Committee: World Health Organization

State: Switzerland

Agenda: Legalization of Euthanasia

Euthanasia is an important topic that has been discussed for over 2000 years. It continues to be a controversial issue for all these years. From the ancient Greek philosophers to the religions embraced by millions of people, today a lot of have different opinions on euthanasia. Just like different people, different countries have different laws about euthanasia.

Switzerland is a landlocked country located at the confluence of western, central, and southern Europe. It’s a federal republic composed of 26 cantons. Switzerland has four official languages, such as German, French, Italian, and Romansh. 74% of the population is Swiss. 62% of the population is Catholic and 29% of the population is non-religious. Switzerland is bordered by Italy to the south,  France to the west, Germany to the north, and Austria and Liechtenstein to the east. One of the World Health Organization headquarters is situated in Switzerland.

In Switzerland, assisted suicide is legal and the patient is allowed to take a lethal dose of medication voluntarily. In assisted suicide, the doctor prescribes a drug that will cause the death of the patient, but without the intervention of the medical staff, the patient ends their life by taking this drug by themselves. However, active euthanasia is totally illegal. Active euthanasia refers to the deliberate intervention of a physician or a medical professional to effect the death of the patient but in Switzerland, doctors are allowed to give substances to reduce the patient's pain. On the other hand, passive euthanasia is legal. Passive euthanasia involves the physician or medical officer stopping interventions that ensure the patient's survival. So here, non-intervention is intended to cause deliberate death.

To sum it all up, we believe that assisted suicide and passive euthanasia should be legal because assisted suicide is performed at the request of the patient and passive euthanasia is removing the factors that keep the patient alive. However, we find active euthanasia unethical.

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